

I simply wish to add my name to the list of distinguished individuals and organizations supporting the FISTS proposal to increase the skills and technical requirements for amateur radio licensing and to support the Commission's long-standing incentive licensing policy. Increased Amateur privileges should be earned by real demonstration of technical and regulatory knowledge and increasing skill in use of Morse.

The current trend of reducing requirements for Morse proficiency and turning the technical and regulatory knowledge tests into memorization skills expression leads directly to a less capable, less knowledgeable cadre of Amateur operators. Less-capable hams are not prepared to provide the quality emergency communications services required in times of disaster.

The FISTS proposal is in the best interests of the Amateur Radio Service and of the nation in time of disaster.

Sincerely,

Peter Alterman, Ph.D.